GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:185
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2007
BIOMETRIC PAN CARDS
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of duplicate Permanent Account Number (PAN) cards cancelled by the Government;

(b) whether the Income-tax Department has examined the option of recording biometric information on the PAN cards to overcome the menace of duplicate PAN cards;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.185 raised by Shri Ahdir Chowdhury & Shri Uday Singh, Members of Parliament, for answer on 24.8.2007 regarding 'Biometric PAN Cards'

(a) The number of persons suspected to have duplicate PANs are estimated to be 13.10,127, The verification exercise as of 10.8.2007. The verification exercise as of 11,43,919 persons in which 10,18,421 PAN cards have been found to be duplicate.

(b), (c)&(d) : A Joint Working Group (JWG) was set up to obtain technical and commercial proposals from leading biometric solution providers, negotiate techno-commercial terms and conditions and to submit a proposal for consideration of the Government. The JWG has submitted its report, which is presently under consideration.